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A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) defining a maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

c) transmitting in response to the defined maintenance schedule a blocking order requesting a time to perform the maintenance action to a system that schedules the production.

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) requesting in response to the at least one maintenance trigger a time to perform the maintenance action; and

c) determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and in response to the request for the time to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action.

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a system for scheduling the maintenance of at least one of the assets;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means using a predetermined criteria for evaluating at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets and at least one order for production of at least a certain quantity of the certain product and proposing to the maintenance scheduling system and the production scheduling system one or more solutions for jointly scheduling the maintenance action and the production order.

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A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to define a maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to the defined maintenance schedule received from maintenance scheduling system for transmitting a blocking order requesting a time to perform the maintenance action to the production scheduling system.

*Amend*  
A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to generate a request for a time to perform the maintenance action;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to the request for the time to perform the maintenance action for determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and the time to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action and transmitting the time for performance of the maintenance action to the production scheduling system.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 19 and 21 as follows(attached hereto are these claims showing the changes made to each of the claims relative to the version of that claim in the application as filed):

1. (Amended) A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

*12*  
a) receiving at least one maintenance trigger indicative